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B. Training 17 new battalions  
Thai Nguyen believed for  
purpose filling out battle  
corps.

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E. Recent Chinese aid included  
six rocket launchers, number  
recoilless rifles, 3,300  
rounds 105mm artillery ammo.

NSA, DIA reviews completed

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NSC BRIEFING

*Given in part with [unclear] [unclear]*  
3 June 1954

### DELTA MILITARY SITUATION

#### I. Rapid return Viet Minh battle corps poses early threat delta.

A. Five divisions Dien Bien Phu expected around delta this week.

B. Div 312, 351 (Artillery) at Tuyen Quang; Div 308 at Phu Tho; Div 316 at Cam Thuy; Div 304 at Thanh Hoa.

+325

C. Could be ready for action 15 June.

#### II. Indications possible enemy intent.

A. Rapid return Dien Bien Phu, could mean plan for early offensive.

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III. Cogny [redacted] major attack

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15-20 June "almost certain."

A. He pessimistic re Hanoi;  
fears enemy will concen-  
trate Hanoi-Haiphong and  
he ~~won't~~ <sup>CAN'T</sup> prevent permanent  
break.

B. If break occurs, he does  
not "intend to have another  
Dien Bien Phu;" will with-  
draw to Haiphong.

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1. Hanoi dependent daily coal supplies for electricity and water purification; already reported low in rice supplies due Viet Minh harassment.

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IV. General impression [redacted] is that delta, except Haiphong bridge-head, can't last 30 days under heavy attack.

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V. [redacted] full attack would not bring disintegration French regular forces, though morale poor.

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VI. [redacted] piecemeal employment enemy battle corps in delta, rather than full-scale attack.

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E. French also plan concentrate mobile strength in north delta; southern area to be held by Vietnamese.

1. Initially, mobile units will support Vietnamese.

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F.

Governor Tri of Tonkin and key Catholic Bishop of Buichu reflect a "mounting sense of panic and a feeling that the last act is about to open."

VIII. Laos, to be stripped of 10 to 13 battalions for reinforcing delta, faces possible rapid deterioration of security situation.

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- A. Enemy could avoid head-on collision heavier armed French forces and exposure air attack.

VII. French planning build-up, reorganization delta defenses; will try hold delta.

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- A. [redacted] total delta infantry soon to be 117 battalions.
- B. Plan is quick increase mobile forces by as many as 15 battalions (to total 36).
- C. 10 to 13 coming from Laos.
- D. Abandonment small, static posts will provide more mobile forces.

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A. Viet Minh regular strength in Laos, although only 10 battalions, expected to take advantage of French exodus and increase harassment of local forces. There also 8,000 irregulars.

B. Weak Laotian army totals 13 battalions. Also 2,500 auxiliaries.